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WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Preparatory Committee
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Item 9 of the provisional agenda

CONSIDERATION OF THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE PREPARATORY WORK AND THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE REGIONAL MEETINGS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/116, requested the Secretary-General to encourage initiatives at the national, regional and international levels designed to make the World Conference process a success. The Secretary-General was also requested to provide the Preparatory Committee with all necessary assistance.

2. The General Assembly further decided, by paragraph 7 (a) (ii) of its resolution 47/122, that the question of the final outcome of the World Conference should be taken up by the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session, taking into consideration, inter alia, the preparatory work and conclusions of the regional meetings held at Tunis, San José and Bangkok.

3. Accordingly, in a spirit of consensus building and with the aim of advancing the preparatory process, and in order to help ensure the success of the Conference, a working paper containing elements which might be considered for possible inclusion in a draft final document and which could serve as a possible basis for discussion, is annexed. The working paper contains ideas and elements drawn from the preparatory process, including the declarations adopted by the above-mentioned regional meetings and suggestions made in many reports submitted by Governments and organizations from all parts of the world. It is based on the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including 45/155, 46/116 and 47/122 and reflects central themes of the World Conference, human rights, democracy and development.

ANNEX

WORKING PAPER*

ELEMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN A DRAFT FINAL DOCUMENT

Having met in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993 to discuss and take action on the six objectives of the World Conference set forth in General Assembly resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990;

Affirming that the human being is the central subject of human rights and should be an active participant and the principal beneficiary of these rights;

Underlining that the achievement of international co-operation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion is one of the purposes of the United Nations in accordance with article 1 of the Charter;

Recalling the Preamble to the Charter, in particular the determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small;

Further recalling the determination expressed in the Preamble to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to establish conditions under which justice and respect for international law obligations can be maintained, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, to practice tolerance and good neighbourliness, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples;

Emphasizing that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the two International Covenants on Human Rights constitute a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations;

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* Unedited text

Recognizing that the present world situation is full of challenges and opportunities for building an international order of true democracy, freedom and justice and that, in this era of change, new approaches should be sought to strengthen the United Nations machinery in the field of human rights in order to further the objective of universal respect for and observance of international human rights standards;

Seeking to enhance respect for human rights by way of cooperation in the spirit of the United Nations Charter;

Taking note with appreciation of the declarations adopted by the three regional meetings at Tunis, San José and Bangkok and bearing in mind the suggestions made by Governments and organizations in multiple reports from all parts of the world during the preparatory process leading to the World Conference.

Drawing on central themes of the World Conference: human rights, democracy and development;

The World Conference on Human Rights solemnly adopts the following Principles and Programme of Human Rights Action:

Principle 1:

The promotion and protection of human rights are essential to the full achievement of the other purposes of the United Nations: the maintenance of international peace and security, the development of friendly relations among nations based on the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, the achievement of international cooperation in solving problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and the harmonization of actions by nations in the attainment of these goals.

Principle 2:

The promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms must be given priority within the Organization in accordance with the purposes of the United Nations. The United Nations system should adopt a comprehensive strategy aimed at including the human rights dimension in all

activities. It is therefore imperative that the various organs and specialized agencies further enhance the coordination of their activities which must be built upon the consistent and objective application of international human rights standards.

Principle 3:

All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent. The universality of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights requires that every State throughout the world recognize, protect, respect and promote internationally recognized human rights standards, whatever the State's level of economic or political development. Regional and national specificities must contribute to the strengthening of the universality of human rights. The exercise of any human right must not be denied because the full enjoyment of other rights has not been achieved. It is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Principle 4:

The processes of promoting and protecting human rights, which are a legitimate concern of the international community, are to be understood in the framework of respect for the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity and political independence of States.

Principle 5:

Democracy is an essential condition for the full and effective enjoyment of all human rights and a main condition for genuine and sustainable development. Democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people and their full participation in all aspects of their lives. The international community should give full support to United Nations action for the strengthening and spreading of democratization throughout the world. Democratic Governments must make all efforts for the effective enjoyment of human rights by their peoples. When democratic governments are making such efforts, human rights problems must not be used as a reason against political and / or socio-economic cooperation.

Principle 6:

The right to development is an inalienable human right. Its enjoyment must be continuously monitored at the international, regional and national levels. Lasting progress towards its implementation requires effective development policies at the national level and equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level, with due regard for the right of peoples to control their natural wealth and resources.

Principle 7:

There is an essential need to create favourable conditions for the effective enjoyment of human rights at both the national and international levels. States, the international community and international organizations must strive to eliminate violations of human rights and obstacles of any kind to the observance of human rights.

Principle 8:

Respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all human beings without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion is a fundamental rule of international human rights law. The speedy and comprehensive elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance is a priority task for the international community. Governments, individuals, groups, institutions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are urged to intensify their efforts in cooperating and coordinating their activities against this evil.

Principle 9:

The equal rights of women and men in the enjoyment of all human rights is a fundamental rule of human rights law. The equal participation of women in the political, economic, social and cultural life, at both national and international levels, and the eradication of all forms of hidden or overt discrimination on grounds of sex are priority objectives. Gender-based violence and all forms of sexual exploitation must be eliminated. The human rights of women should form an integral part of the United Nations Human Rights Programme.

Principle 10:

The World Conference reaffirms the obligation of States to respect the rights of national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and indigenous peoples, in particular the standards on equality, dignity, identity, non-discrimination and preferential treatment, and urges all Governments to institute effective measures for the implementation of existing international human rights instruments in this field. The prevention of conflicts requires more active and effective implementation of the existing standards within a comprehensive approach as reflected in the Secretary-General's Agenda for Peace.

Principle 11:

The World Conference, on the occasion of the International Year for the World's Indigenous People, recognizes the unique contribution of indigenous peoples to our societies and reaffirms the commitment of the international community to their economic, social and cultural well-being and to their full participation in all aspects of society. States have an obligation to respect the identities of indigenous peoples and to recognize the value and diversity of their cultures, as well as forms of social organizations.

Principle 12:

The World Conference, welcoming the success which the Convention on the Rights of the Child has enjoyed through the early ratification by a large number of States, urges the implementation of the Convention, in particular through the establishment of national and international mechanisms and programmes for the defence and protection of children and adolescents, in particular the girl child, abandoned children, street children and refugee children. The rights of the child should be a priority in the United Nations system wide action on human rights.

Principle 13:

Utmost importance must be given to the promotion and protection of the human rights of vulnerable groups, the elimination of all forms of discrimination against them, and the development of additional norms for their protection when necessary. States have an obligation to create and maintain

adequate measures at the national level, not least in the fields of education, health and social support, for the promotion and protection of the rights of the vulnerable sectors of their populations and the involvement of these persons in the solution of their own problems.

Principle 14:

The World Conference recognizes the significant achievement in the codification and progressive development of international human rights standards. The universal acceptance of the major human rights treaties is imperative, in particular the International Covenants on Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Principle 15:

The administration of justice and an independent judiciary, in full conformity with internationally accepted standards, are crucial to the full realization of human rights and indispensable to the processes of democracy and development. The attainment of this objective requires substantial investment in the establishment and strengthening of institutions and the training of officials, and governments and international organizations must recognize and provide the necessary resources to the accomplishment of this task.

Principle 16:

Political freedom cannot be fully achieved outside the context of economic, social and cultural rights. To strengthen the enjoyment of these rights, additional substantive and procedural provisions, including the right of petition, should be examined in the context of the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, together with a system of indicators to measure progress in the realization of the rights set forth in that Covenant and in other international instruments, including the international labour standards.

Principle 17:

The responsibility for the implementation and promotion of human rights rests primarily with States. The monitoring by intergovernmental organizations of compliance with the international standards should be carried out in an objective, impartial and non-selective manner. The Commission on Human Rights, its subsidiary organs and the treaty bodies, as well as specialized agencies such as ILO and UNESCO, are encouraged to further strengthen their supervisory efforts.

Principle 18:

Faced with massive violations of human rights and humanitarian law or imminent threat thereof, the United Nations should develop means to respond more effectively and more speedily to such situations, including genocide, extrajudicial executions and other indiscriminate killings, enforced or involuntary disappearances, torture, flagrant acts of racism and racial discrimination, slavery, armed attacks on civilians, and the blocking of humanitarian relief. All components of the United Nations system should coordinate their responses to these situations. Particular attention should be paid to the building up of an adequate international system for flexible and rapid preventive and corrective action for the promotion of and respect for human rights and humanitarian law.

Principle 19:

The World Conference expresses grave concern about continuing human rights violations despite international standards and about the lack of effective remedies for the victims.

Principle 20:

The World Conference reiterates the duty of States, established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to direct education to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Such education shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace. Accordingly, human rights education and the dissemination of information about human

rights, both theoretical and practical, are essential functions for promoting and encouraging respect for human rights for all without distinction as to race, sex language or religion, and should be undertaken as priority objectives of educational policies at both the national and international levels.

Principle 21:

A programme of development cooperation, including technical assistance and advisory services which the United Nations can provide to Member States, at their request, could be a major contribution to improving respect for human rights. Such a programme should seek to establish a coherent and comprehensive approach to the improvement and strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Approaches should be developed, implemented and evaluated which aim at improving respect for human rights through the establishment and strengthening of national legislation, institutions and infrastructures which uphold the rule of law, promote human rights training, teaching and education, enhance popular participation and strengthen civil society.

Principle 22:

The full and effective implementation of United Nations action to promote and protect human rights must reflect the priority given to human rights by the Charter and the demands on the United Nations Human Rights Programme, as mandated by Member States, together with the increased and more complex responsibilities embodied in the present Document.

Principle 23:

The establishment of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, by way of constitutional law whenever feasible, should be further encouraged as they can make important contributions to the effective enjoyment of human rights. Alongside other institutions, such as an independent judiciary, national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights can increase awareness of human rights, promote tolerance and dialogue, help ensure respect for human rights, and remedy violations.

Principle 24:

Regional arrangements play a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights. The World Conference endorses efforts under way to strengthen these arrangements and to increase their effectiveness, while at the same time stressing the importance of cooperation with the United Nations Human Rights Programme. On the same basis, the World Conference would welcome the creation of regional and sub-regional arrangements of human rights protection where they do not already exist.

Principle 25:

The World Conference pays tribute to the untiring and invaluable efforts of non-governmental organizations in all aspects of human rights and humanitarian activities at the local, national, regional and international levels. Their contributions to standard-setting, monitoring of compliance with existing standards, dissemination of information and the conduct of education, training and research are recognized and their contributions to all human rights activities undertaken by intergovernmental organizations should be facilitated.

Principle 26:

Underlining the importance of objective and impartial information about human rights and humanitarian issues, the World Conference encourages the increased involvement of the media. For this purpose, the media would be guaranteed freedom and protection.

Draft Programme of Action

In light of the above principles, the United Nations Human Rights Programme should now place its emphasis on operational and implementation activities. The World Conference, accordingly, adopts this Programme of Action, as an integral part of the Final Document.

I. United Nations System wide action on Human Rights

1. The World Conference calls for system wide action for human rights and fundamental freedoms within the United Nations as stated in principle 2 above. High level officials of the United Nations and its specialized agencies should meet annually in

order to assess the impact of their strategies and policies on the enjoyment of human rights and to coordinate their programmes and measures for the promotion and protection of human rights.

2. Furthermore, the World Conference calls on regional organizations and prominent international and regional finance and development institutions to contribute to the above-mentioned approach to human rights in their work. These organizations and independent national institutions, whenever applicable, should be invited to participate in these coordination meetings held within the United Nations system.

3. The World Conference recognizes that, within the United Nations Human Rights Programme, there should be constant availability of independent analysis and objective reporting on the human rights situation throughout the world.

4. The World Conference strongly recommends that a concerted effort be made to encourage and facilitate the ratification of and accession or succession to international human rights treaties with the aim of universal acceptance. The year 2000 should be set as a target date for achieving universality and strategy should be devised for achieving this goal. The General Assembly is requested to open a dialogue with States not having accepted the basic human rights treaties and to seek other ways of encouraging ratifications and overcoming obstacles to ratification. Any reservations to and declarations about human rights treaties must be fully compatible with the object and purpose of the treaties concerned.

5. The World Conference, recognizing the need to maintain consistency with the high quality of existing international standards and to avoid proliferation of human rights instruments, reaffirms the guidelines relating to the elaboration of new international instrument contained in General Assembly resolution 41/120 and calls on the United Nations human rights bodies, when considering the elaboration of new international standards, to keep those guidelines in mind, to consult with human rights treaty bodies on the necessity for drafting new standards and to request the Secretariat to carry out technical reviews of proposed new instruments.

6. The World Conference urges all United Nations organs and the specialized agencies whose activities deal with human rights to cooperate in order to rationalize, streamline and evaluate their activities and to avoid duplication.

7. The World Conference recommends that human rights officers be assigned to regional and eventually other offices of the Organization with the primary purpose of disseminating information and offering training and other technical assistance in the field of human rights. Human rights training for international civil servants who are assigned to work relating to human rights should be organized.

8. The World Conference calls for the setting up of machinery for facilitating system wide action in the field of human rights and endorses the designation of the Centre for Human Rights as focal point and coordination unit for this purpose.

9. The World Conference recommends that the Centre for Human Rights be enabled to expeditiously and effectively meet the requirements for collection, analysis and dissemination of information and documentation, training, technical assistance, advisory services, standard-setting, research and studies, implementation procedures, monitoring, early warning, preventive action, and coordination.

10. The World Conference recognizes the positive role of non-governmental organizations at all levels within the United Nations system and, drawing on the procedure established during the preparatory process of this Conference, proposes that those organizations which have participated in the World Conference should have increased access to United Nations human rights fora.

II. Equality, Dignity and Tolerance

A. Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

1. The World Conference considers the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, in particular in their institutionalized forms such as apartheid or resulting from official doctrines of racial superiority or exclusivity, as a primary objective for the United Nations Human Rights Programme and for system-wide action in the field of human rights. United Nations organs and agencies should strengthen their efforts to implement a programme of

action related to the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination as well as subsequent mandates to the same end. The World Conference strongly appeals to all governments, organizations and individuals to generously contribute to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

2. The World Conference urges all Governments to take immediate measures and to develop strong policies to combat new forms of racism, xenophobia or related intolerance, including through the establishment of national institutions to combat such phenomena.

3. The World Conference endorses the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to appoint a Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The World Conference also appeals to all States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to make the declaration under article 14 of the Convention.

B. Minorities and Indigenous Peoples

1. The World Conference calls on the Commission on Human Rights to undertake the preparation of an implementation procedure for the Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. In so doing, the Commission should develop objective and impartial methods of dialogue facilitation, confidence-building and dispute resolution for the purpose of preventing conflicts.

2. The World Conference calls on the Working Group on Indigenous Populations to complete the drafting of a declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and urges States and intergovernmental organizations to establish more effective mechanisms for the protection of indigenous peoples' rights.

3. The World Conference urges States and intergovernmental organizations to treat minorities and indigenous peoples and persons belonging to them on the basis of equality. Measures to be taken should include facilitation of their full participation in all aspects of the political, economic, social, religious and cultural life of society and at all stages of development

cooperation, possible contributions to state reports under existing treaty obligations, and the possibility of presenting their views to all relevant national, regional and international policy-making and monitoring bodies.

4. The World Conference encourages the Secretary-General and other heads of organizations in the United Nations system to continue employing their good offices, in close cooperation with the States concerned, for the purpose of preventing and resolving human rights problems and conflicts involving minorities and indigenous peoples.

5. The World Conference considers human rights education essential for harmonious relations between communities and for fostering mutual understanding, tolerance and peace. The World Conference therefore urges States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to establish and maintain specific programmes of immediate action for such education.

C. The Status and Human Rights of Women

1. The World Conference recommends that matters related to human rights and status of women be regularly and systematically reviewed by all United Nations mechanisms, including the Commission on Human Rights. Women are encouraged to make more use of existing implementation procedures in their pursuits of equal enjoyment and non-discrimination. In addition, existing monitoring bodies should, whenever applicable, include the status and the human rights of women in their deliberations and findings.

2. The World Conference stresses the importance of promoting and protecting the equal enjoyment by women of all human rights. In particular, the World Conference emphasizes work geared towards the elimination of violence against women in public and private life, the elimination of sexual exploitation and trafficking in women, the proper treatment of women in the administration of justice, and the eradication of any conflicts which may arise between the rights of women and certain traditional or customary practices. The violations of the rights of women in armed conflicts, including in particular murder and rape, require a particularly effective response and prosecution.

3. The World Conference supports all measures by the United Nations and its specialized agencies to ensure the effective protection and promotion of the human rights of the girl child. Existing laws, customs, regulations and practices which discriminate against the girl child should be abolished.

4. As to new implementation procedures, the World Conference encourages the Commission on Human Rights and CEDAW to examine the possibility of introducing the right of petition by preparing an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Likewise, the World Conference calls on the Commission on Human Rights to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the human rights of women.

5. The World Conference supports steps taken within the Secretariat to elevate women staff members in accordance with Article 8 of the United Nations Charter and encourages other principal and subsidiary organs of the United Nations to guarantee the participation of women under conditions of equality.

6. The World Conference underlines the importance of the integration and full participation of women in the development process and reiterates the objectives established on global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development set forth in the Rio Declaration.

III. Cooperation, Development and Strengthening of Human Rights

1. The World Conference strongly recommends that a strengthened advisory services and technical cooperation programme be implemented. That programme should make available to States assistance on specific human rights issues, including the preparation of reports under human rights treaties as well as for the implementation of coherent and comprehensive plans of action for human rights promotion and protection. Strengthening the institutions of human rights and democracy, the legal protection of human rights, training of officials and others, broad-based education and public information aimed at creating a culture of respect for human rights should all be available as components of these programmes. The Conference strongly appeals for a significant increase in contributions to the Voluntary Fund for advisory services and technical cooperation.

2. The World Conference recommends that human rights assistance, expertise and the building of legal infrastructures should be central elements in activities for the prevention of conflicts, peace-making, peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-restoration.

3. The World Conference recommends that priority be given to national and international action to promote democratization, and free and fair elections, including through assistance in the human rights aspects of elections and public information about elections and to the strengthening of the rule of law and the administration of justice.

4. The World Conference recommends to the General Assembly and other organs and agencies concerned that a global strategy for the implementation of the right to development as a human right should be adopted. The strategy could encompass formulation of criteria for the assessment of progress, including the examination of sample projects, introduction of human rights impact statements for programmes and projects affecting the right, preparation of guidelines on structural adjustment and human rights, identification of internal and external obstacles to the enjoyment of the right with a view to overcoming them, and dissemination of wider knowledge about the right.

5. The World Conference recommends that non-governmental and other grass roots organizations, active in human rights and/ or development, should play a major role on the national and international levels in the debate, activities and implementation relating to the right to development and all aspects of development cooperation.

6. The World Conference calls on the Commission on Human Rights, in cooperation with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to commence the preparation of optional protocols to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, strengthening selected substantive provisions and allowing for the right of petition. The Committee should also be encouraged, drawing on the expertise of other organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to continue the development of a system of indicators for measuring progress in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

IV. Human Rights Education

1. States have a duty to direct education to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in principle 20 above. The World Conference calls on all States and private institutions, as a matter of the highest priority, to include human rights as a subject in the curricula of all learning institutions in formal and non-formal settings and including popular and adult education.

2. Human rights education should focus on democracy, development and social justice, as set forth in international and regional human rights instruments, in order to create a dialogue towards strengthening a universal commitment to human rights among peoples and groups of diverse faiths and cultures.

3. Taking into account the World Plan of Action on Education for Human Rights and Democracy, adopted in March 1993 by the International Congress on Education for Human Rights and Democracy and other human rights instruments, the World Conference recommends that States develop specific programmes and strategies for ensuring the widest human rights education and the dissemination of public information.

4. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations have a responsibility to initiate and support human rights education and to undertake effective dissemination of public information about human rights. The advisory services and technical assistance programmes of the United Nations system should be able to immediately respond to requests for educational and training activities in the field of human rights. The World Conference endorses suggestions for the proclamation of an United Nations decade for human rights education in order to promote, encourage and focus these educational activities.

V. Implementation and Monitoring Methods

1. The World Conference urges Governments to incorporate human rights standards in domestic legislation and to strengthen national structures, institutions and organs of society which play a role in promoting and safeguarding human rights.

2. The World Conference strongly recommends the convening of an annual meeting of representatives of national institutions to examine ways and means of improving mechanisms and sharing experiences at the national level.

3. The World Conference recommends to the human rights treaty bodies, to the meetings of chairpersons of the treaty bodies and to the meetings of States Parties that they initiate steps aimed at coordinating the multiple reporting requirements and guidelines for preparing State reports under the respective human rights conventions, taking into account the fact that the submission of one overall report on obligations undertaken by each State would make these procedures less burdensome and more effective and increase their impact.

4. The World Conference recommends continued work on the improvement of the treaty monitoring system, taking into account multiple proposals made in this respect, in particular those made by the monitoring bodies themselves and by the meetings of the chairpersons of the treaty bodies. The comprehensive national approach taken by the Committee on the Rights of the Child should also be encouraged.

5. The World Conference recommends that States Parties to human rights treaties accept all the available optional petition procedures, including the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 22 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The World Conference also recommends that the Commission on Human Rights start examining the possibility of establishing an International Human Rights Court.

6. The World Conference underlines the importance of preserving and strengthening the system of country and thematic rapporteurs and working groups reporting to the Commission on Human Rights, including separate and joint visits for fact-finding and on-site monitoring and the necessary human and financial resources for carrying them out. The World Conference, mindful of the need to prevent outbreaks of serious violations of human rights and to bring an end to such situations, calls upon the concerned United Nations bodies and Member States to develop the Organization's capacities for early warning, preventive action and for active methods to arrest such situations, including the ability of human

rights expert bodies to bring these situations to the attention of the Security Council when they threaten international peace and security.

7. The World Conference recommends that the chairpersons and rapporteurs of all thematic and country-oriented mechanisms in the field of human rights, both those based on treaties and resolutions, be convened annually in order to coordinate their work and to guarantee consistency. United Nations institutions, organs and agencies system-wide which offer technical assistance and advisory services should participate in these meetings.

8. The World Conference recommends that the United Nations assume a more active role in the promotion and protection of human rights in situations of international or non-international armed conflicts, irrespective of whether humanitarian law applies. In this regard coordination of humanitarian activities and cooperation between the organizations concerned should be further strengthened.

9. The World Conference, recognizing the role and responsibility of human rights organs concerning the fate of internally and externally displaced persons, recommends the establishment of an effective mechanism to monitor the human rights of these persons.

10. The World Conference recommends that mechanisms be further developed for effectively ensuring follow-up to decisions and recommendations made by the monitoring organs in the field of human rights and humanitarian law.

11. The World Conference further encourages the crucial role of non-governmental organizations active in human rights and/or development to contribute to and participate in the work of both treaty-based and resolution-based bodies and procedures.

12. The World Conference recommends that persons alleged to be responsible for grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law, including genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and apartheid, be subject to prosecution and trial, either before a national court or an international judicial institution, regardless of where the offence was committed.

VI. Follow-up to the World Conference

1. The World Conference recommends to the General Assembly that a high level expert meeting be convened in 1998 with the mandate of assessing the progress made in realizing the principles set forth in the Final Document as well as the Programme for Human Rights Action. States, the Secretary-General and the heads of other organs and agencies in the United Nations system, as well as regional human rights institutions, are requested to submit to the expert meeting reports containing a detailed account of action taken and results achieved in the implementation of the present Programme of Action.